



National Indian and Native American Employment and Training Conference



February 13, 2026

To: Indian and Native American WIOA 166 Grantees / Public Law 102-477 Grantees

From: 2026 NINAETC Awards Committee

Re: **2026 NINAETC AWARD NOMINATIONS**

All year long, we meet many remarkable people—both adults and youth—who make the most of the opportunities offered by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Section 166 and Public Law 102-477 programs and go on to succeed in their chosen paths. We also have the privilege of partnering with outstanding companies and organizations that not only employ our participants but also help them grow as individuals.

We are pleased to recognize outstanding participants and employers during the 46th National Indian and Native American Employment and Training Conference. Attached, you will find nomination forms for four award categories. Award recipients will be honored at a ceremony during the week of June 1-4, 2026, at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Sacramento, California.

The following 2026 nomination forms are attached:

- Howard Yackus Memorial Scholarship Award - Participant will receive a \$600.00 scholarship award.
- Alice BigPond Roach Memorial Award - Participant will receive a \$600.00 award.
- Four (4) Outstanding Participant Awards (2 of each 166 & 477) – Each participant will receive a \$600.00 award.
- Two (2) Outstanding Employer Awards (one of each 166 & 477)

Nominations must be received by March 24, 2026. Please send nominations and supporting documents by email to the 2026 NINAETC Awards Committee at training@cimcinc.com. A confirmation email will be sent once the nomination is received. For additional information, please contact Michael Martin at mmartin@nacswny.org or (716) 874-4460.

Your active involvement in helping NINAETC to honor these exemplary participants and employers, and to showcase what Indian and Native American WIOA Section 166 and Public Law 102-477 programs are really all about, will be very much appreciated.

**AWARD NOMINATIONS FOR 2026 NINAETC
ARE DUE BY March 24, 2026.**



46th National Indian and Native American Employment and Training Conference

June 1-4, 2026 | DoubleTree by Hilton | Sacramento, California

Exceeding the Vision – Expanding the Possibilities



2026 Howard Yackus Memorial Scholarship Award Nomination

The recipient of the 2026 Howard Yackus Memorial Scholarship Award will be selected from nominees submitted by Indian and Native American WIOA Section 166 and Public Law 102-477 Grantees. The recipient will be honored at the 46th NINAETC Awards Luncheon during the week of June 1-4, 2026.

- ▶ Each Grantee may nominate only one (1) participant (current or former) for the 2026 Howard Yackus Memorial Scholarship Award.
- ▶ Documentation of American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian heritage or tribal affiliation must be submitted.
- ▶ The nominee must submit a recent high-resolution digital photograph (for publication in the program booklet).
- ▶ The nominee must submit verification of current enrollment in a post-secondary educational institution.
- ▶ **The nominee must submit a self-composed essay** on his or her education and career goals and explain how the 166/477 program has helped him or her.
- ▶ Statement of why the nominee is deserving of this award.

NOMINEE INFORMATION:

Nominee's Name:			Daytime Phone:
Mailing Address:			Tribal Affiliation:
City:	State:	Zip Code:	Email:
Brief statement of why this nominee should be selected to receive this award:			

NOMINATION DUE DATE

The completed nomination form and all required supporting documents must be sent to the 2026 NINAETC Awards Committee at training@cimcinc.com.

Nominations must be received by March 24, 2026.

Any questions regarding the 2026 Howard Yackus Memorial Scholarship Award nomination process may be directed to:
Michael Martin at mmartin@nacswny.org or (716) 874-4460.

NOMINATION SUBMITTED BY:

Contact Person:	Title/Position:	
Grantee:		
Mailing Address:		
City:	State:	Zip Code:
Daytime Phone:	Fax No.:	
Email Address:		

I hereby submit this nomination in consideration for the 2026 Howard Yackus Memorial Scholarship Award of \$600.00. Nominee was a participant in our _____ (OST/OJT/WEX/etc.) program in Program Year _____.

Director's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Director's Name/Title (Printed): _____

2026 HOWARD YACKUS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD NOMINATION

Nominee: _____

Grantee: _____

NOMINEE SELF-COMPOSED ESSAY:

Please compose an essay on your education and career goals and explain how the WIOA 166 or PL 102-477 program has helped you. If you have any supporting documents of awards, articles, pictures, etc., please submit with this written statement.



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2026 Alice BigPond Roach Memorial Award Nomination

The recipient of the 2026 Alice BigPond Roach Memorial Award will be selected from nominees submitted by Indian and Native American WIOA Section 166 and Public Law 102-477 Grantees. The recipient will be honored at the 46th NINAETC Awards Luncheon during the week of June 1-4, 2026. Nominee must be a former or current 166/477 participant, who has demonstrated exemplary community service and be an individual who possesses the qualities, attributes, family values and professionalism that Alice inspired in all of us.

- ▶ Each Grantee may nominate only one (1) participant (current or former) for the 2026 Alice BigPond Roach Memorial Award.
- ▶ Documentation of American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian heritage or tribal affiliation must be submitted.
- ▶ The nominee must submit a recent high-resolution digital photograph (for publication in program booklet).
- ▶ **The nominating Grantee must submit a 250-word essay** documenting exemplary community service of the nominee.
- ▶ The nominating Grantee must submit copies of awards, newspaper articles about special accomplishments, etc. of the nominee.

NOMINEE INFORMATION:

Nominee's Name:			Daytime Phone:
Mailing Address:			Tribal Affiliation:
City:	State:	Zip Code:	Email:
Brief statement of why this nominee should be selected to receive this award:			

NOMINATION DUE DATE

The completed nomination form and all required supporting documents must be sent to the 2026 NINAETC Awards Committee at training@cimcinc.com.

Nominations must be received by March 24, 2026.

Any questions regarding the 2026 Alice BigPond Roach Memorial Award nomination process may be directed to:
Michael Martin at mmartin@nacswny.org
or (716) 874-4460.

NOMINATION SUBMITTED BY:

Contact Person:	Title/Position:	
Grantee:		
Mailing Address:		
City:	State:	Zip Code:
Daytime Phone:	Fax No.:	
Email Address:		

I hereby submit this nomination in consideration for the 2026 Alice BigPond Roach Memorial Award of \$600.00. Nominee was a participant in our _____ (OST/OJT/WEX/etc.) program in Program Year _____.

Director's
Signature: _____ Date: _____

Director's Name/Title (Printed): _____

2026 ALICE BIGPOND ROACH MEMORIAL AWARD NOMINATION

Nominee: _____

Grantee: _____

GRANTEE STATEMENT:

Please compose a statement documenting exemplary community service of the nominee (250 words or less). If you have any supporting documents of awards, articles, pictures, etc. of the nominee, please submit with the written statement.

2026 OUTSTANDING PARTICIPANT NOMINATION

Nominee: _____

Grantee: _____

NOMINEE SELF-COMPOSED ESSAY:

Please submit an essay on status prior to program (education level, employment and skills/abilities), barriers they needed to overcome, and how the WIOA 166 or PL 102-477 program affected your life in a positive way.



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2026 Outstanding Employer Award Nomination

As in the past, the National Indian and Native American Employment and Training Conference will recognize Outstanding Employers who have not only been helped by the WIOA Section 166 or Public Law 102-477 Program, but have also made a significant contribution to and for Native American people. Selections will be made from nominations submitted by Indian and Native American WIOA Section 166 and Public Law 102-477 Grantees. Recipients will be honored at the 46th NINAETC Awards Luncheon during week of June 1-4, 2026.

- ▶ Each Grantee may nominate only one (1) employer (current or former) for a 2026 Outstanding Employer Award.
- ▶ Nominee must be a 166/477 employer, who by their commitments has contributed toward opportunities for the employment of 166/477 participants (within the last 18 months).
- ▶ To be considered for award, Part I, II, III, and IV must be completed. Grantee may include supporting materials.
- ▶ Employer logo and/or photograph in high-resolution digital format is required (for publication in program booklet).

PART I - NOMINEE INFORMATION

Employer/Nominee:			
Representative Name:		Title/Position:	
Mailing Address:		Phone:	FAX:
City:	State:	Zip Code:	Email:
Brief statement of why this nominee should be selected to receive this award:			

NOMINATION DUE DATE

The completed nomination form and all required supporting documents must be sent to the 2026 NINAETC Awards Committee at training@cimcinc.com.

Nominations must be received by March 24, 2026.

Any questions regarding the 2026 Outstanding Employer Award nomination process may be directed to: Michael Martin at mmartin@nacswny.org or (716) 874-4460.

PART II – NOMINATION SUBMITTED BY:

Contact Person:	Title/Position:	
Grantee:		
Mailing Address:		
City:	State:	Zip Code:
Daytime Phone:	Fax No.:	
Email Address:		

I hereby submit this nomination in consideration to be recognized as the 2026 Outstanding Employer.

Director's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Director's Name/Title (Printed): _____

2026 OUTSTANDING EMPLOYER AWARD NOMINATION

PART III – NOMINATION

Please complete the information based on the past 18 months.

Please Type:

1. Percentage of Native Americans hired (based on a ratio of total employees): _____
2. Number of Native Americans hired with felony records: _____
3. Types of training Native American employees received:

4. Opportunities for upward mobility (advancement) for Native American employees:

5. Native American employee recognition:

6. Employer participation in Native American cultural activities/events and support for participation by employees:

7. Other pertinent information:

2026 OUTSTANDING EMPLOYER AWARD NOMINATION

PART IV – NOMINATION: EMPLOYER STATEMENT

Please compose a statement on how Native American employees have successfully contributed to your business (250 words or less). If you have any supporting documents of awards, pictures, etc. of the employee(s), please submit with the written statement.

Employer Name and Title

Business/Organization Name